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Item 14 (e) of the provisional agenda*
Social and human rights questions: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Note verbale dated 27 October 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and hereby has the honour to present the application of the Government of Bulgaria for admission to the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In this regard, Bulgaria fulfils the membership criteria for the Executive Committee as set out in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council establishing its mandate and statute.

Bulgaria has been a State Member of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and has actively participated in their work, including as a member of their executive bodies.

The acceptance of Bulgaria as a member of the Executive Committee would be in accordance with the current increase in the volume and geographical spread of the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Bulgaria demonstrates a serious interest in the effective resolution of refugee issues and is determined to contribute to this end. Since 1996, the State Agency for Refugees has been working effectively in this regard. Preparations are being made for accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In 2002, the National Assembly adopted the Law on Asylum and Refugees. As a member State of the European Union, Bulgaria actively participates in all deliberations on, and in the elaboration of programmes for the protection of, asylum-seeking refugees.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria would highly appreciate the forwarding of the present request to the Economic and Social Council for further consideration.

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Letter dated 19 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Croatia wishes to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Since its accession to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, Croatia has been actively involved in the process of setting up a legislative framework and developing international partnerships in the field of protection and promotion of the rights of refugees.

Over the past two decades, the Republic of Croatia has gained an abundance of experience in the field of managing refugees and displaced persons, and has invested significant resources, both financial and material, in refugee return and local integration. Croatia has closely cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in this process. Furthermore, at the national level, Croatia is continuing to implement extensive measures towards achieving durable solutions.

Croatia believes that joining the Executive Committee will provide it with a great opportunity to actively contribute its abundant experience to the outstanding work of the Committee in alleviating the suffering of refugees, and to benefit from its deliberations and best practices.

In light of the above, the Government of Croatia hopes that the Economic and Social Council will give favourable consideration to this request and that it will recommend to the General Assembly that it increase the membership of the Executive Committee by one.

(*Signed*) Ranko **Vilović**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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